



1 in 3 U.S. Asians and Pacific Islanders faced racial abuse this year

By TERRY TANG and
LINLEY SANDERS
Associated Press

Despite ongoing advocacy and legislation to combat anti-Asian racism that arose after the pandemic, about a third of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders say they have experienced an act of abuse based on their race or ethnicity in the last year, including being on the receiving end of verbal harassment, slurs, physical threats or cyberbullying. A new poll from AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds 15% of Asian American and Pacific Islanders specifically say they believe they have ever been the victim of a hate crime.



Jen Ho Lee, a 76-year-old South Korean immigrant, poses in her apartment in Los Angeles on March 31, 2021, with a sign from a recent rally against anti-Asian hate crimes she attended.

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Associated Press

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Continued from Front

About half — 51% — believe racism is an “extremely” or “very serious” problem in the U.S. From as early as a decade ago to as recently as two weeks ago, Jennifer Lee, a 29-year-old Filipino American in San Diego, can recall being called racial slurs and being discriminated against. She recently interviewed for a job at a tutoring service. The interviewer assumed Lee was Japanese and said: “You people are always so obedient. Why? That’s so pathetic,” she shared.

About 2 in 10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (23%) say they have experienced being verbally harassed or abused in the last year, and 22% have been called a racial or ethnic slur. About 1 in 10 say they have been physically assaulted or threatened physically. About a third of Asian American and Pacific Islanders say they often or sometimes face discrimination because of their race or ethnicity when applying for jobs.

Last month, the FBI reported an overall 7% increase in hate crimes, even as the



A person holds a sign and attends a rally to support stop AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) hate at the Logan Square Monument in Chicago, on March 20, 2021.

Associated Press

agency’s data showed anti-Asian incidents in 2022 were down 33% from 2021. That seeming contradiction doesn’t surprise Stephanie Chan, director of data and research at Stop AAPI Hate, an advocacy group.

“We know that Asian Americans are among the most likely to not report the crime that they’ve experienced,” Chan said. “It’s really sobering to see that even when the world seems to have returned to normal, after the pandemic, these levels are still really elevated in terms of anti-Asian American hate.”

The poll also shows President Joe Biden gets mediocre ratings from Asian Americans, who viewed him favorably at 52%. That’s still higher than U.S. adults overall who viewed the president favorably at 44% in a June AP-NORC poll. Vice President Kamala Harris, who is of Asian American and African American descent, is also seen favorably by about half (47%) of Asian Americans.

Lee, a Democrat, believes the president should be a role model and not turn a blind eye to racism. But she has reservations about Biden,

who is just shy of his 81st birthday, filling that role.

“It seems like he’s more performative and he’s trying to say whatever the people want to hear. Also, I understand he’s of an older age, not that all people of that age are Joe Biden. But mentally, I think he’s not all there,” Lee said.

“Asian Americans are really no different than the national mood, which is Biden favorability is low,” said Natalie Masuoka, professor of political science and Asian American Studies at UCLA. “The relatively lower favorability for Biden actually could impact turnout at lower-level offices.”

The lukewarm feelings about Biden should be a warning for the Democratic Party not to take AAPI voters, who tend to be mostly Democrats, for granted, Masuoka added. Still, former President Donald Trump, who is seeking a rematch with Biden, fares even worse than the current commander-in-chief, with 7 in 10 saying they have an unfavorable opinion of Trump. No current Republican candidate asked about in the poll is viewed favorably by

more than 1 in 4, while two candidates of Indian descent — Vivek Ramaswamy and Nikki Haley — each remain largely unknown by at least 4 in 10 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Thomas Lee, of Long Island, New York, fears the possibility of Trump getting reelected could lead to an increase in discrimination and hate crimes. “His followers are typically more of the like ... very far radical rights. They don’t mesh well with minorities,” Thomas Lee said. “Of course, it’s got to be dependent on him becoming president, but that is kind of like the direction where I feel like it’s very likely that something’s going to happen.”

The 42-year-old Taiwanese American switched from Republican to Democrat before the 2020 presidential election, partly due to the anti-Asian sentiment he attributed to Trump. In the first year of the pandemic, Thomas Lee felt like he needed protection every time he and his family went out. He also has unease about Biden’s age, but would rather have him than Trump back in the White House. □



Migrants who crossed into the U.S. from Mexico are met with concertina wire along the Rio Grande, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Illegal border crossings from Mexico fell 14% in October from a month earlier, U.S. authori-

ties said Tuesday, ending a three-month streak of big increases. U.S. officials highlighted the resumption of de-

Illegal border crossings into the U.S. drop in October after a 3-month streak of increases

portation flights to Venezuela on Oct. 18, shortly after Venezuelans replaced Mexicans as the largest nationality appearing at the border. Arrests of Venezuelans plummeted 45% to 29,637 from 54,833, still second only to Mexicans. Arrests for illegal crossings totaled 188,778 for all nationalities in October, down from 218,763 in September, which was the second-highest month on record. Arrests had more than doubled over the previous three months as

migrants and smugglers adjusted to new asylum regulations introduced in May.

Arrests of Chinese rose slightly to 4,247, with 99% of them in the San Diego area, as more fly to Ecuador and make their way to the U.S. border amid a faltering economy at home. “We continue to enhance our border security posture and remain vigilant,” said Troy Miller, the acting CBP commissioner, who urged Congress to approve President Joe Biden’s supplemental bud-

get request for \$13.6 billion in border-related spending. While crossings remain unusually high, the monthly decline is a rare piece of welcome news for a White House that has been criticized on the right and left flanks for its immigration policies. Panama has yet to release October figures for crossings through the notorious Darién jungle, which totaled more than 400,000 during the first nine months of the year, largely Venezuelans. □

House readies vote to prevent a government shutdown as Speaker Johnson relies on Democrats for help

By STEPHEN GROVES and
LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House prepared on Tuesday for a vote to prevent a government shutdown, with new Republican Speaker Mike Johnson forced to reach across the aisle to Democrats when hard-right conservatives revolted against his plan.

To keep the federal government running into the new year, Johnson was willing to leave his right-flank Republicans behind and work with Democrats — the same political move that cost the last House speaker, Kevin McCarthy, his job just weeks ago.

This time, Johnson of Louisiana appeared on track for a temporarily better outcome as some Republicans showed signs of unrest but stopped short of threatening to remove the speaker, who has been on the job for just three weeks. The Senate would act next, ahead of Friday's shutdown deadline.

"Making sure that government stays in operation is a matter of conscience for all of us. We owe that to the American people," Johnson said at a news conference at the Capitol. But the new Republican leader faces the same political problem that led to McCarthy's ouster — angry, frustrated, hard-right GOP lawmakers rejecting his approach, demanding budget cuts and determined to vote against the plan. Without enough support from his Republican majority, Johnson had little choice but to rely on Democrats to ensure passage to keep the federal government running.

"We're not surrendering," Johnson assured after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans, vowing he would not support another stopgap. "But you have to choose fights you can win."

Johnson, who announced his endorsement Tuesday of Donald Trump as the Republican nominee for presi-



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., meets with reporters ahead of a crucial vote on a continuing resolution to keep the government funded at its current levels, a measure not heartily supported by the hard right wing of his party, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

Associated Press

dent, hit the airwaves to sell his approach and met privately Monday night with the conservative Freedom Caucus.

Under his proposal, Johnson is putting forward a unique — critics say bizarre — two-part process that temporarily funds some federal agencies to Jan. 19 and others to Feb. 2. It's a continuing resolution, or CR, that comes without any of the deep cuts conservatives have demanded all year. It also fails to include President Joe Biden's request for nearly \$106 billion for Ukraine, Israel, border security and other supplemental funds.

The House Freedom Caucus announced its opposition, ensuring dozens of votes against the plan.

"I think it's a very big mistake," said Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, a member of the hard-right group of lawmakers.

"It's wrong," said Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Tenn.

It all left Johnson with few other options than to skip what's typically a party-only procedural vote, and rely on another process that requires a two-thirds tally with Democrats for passage.

Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said he remained concerned about the two-part approach. Veteran lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have called it cumbersome, unusual and unworkable.

Nevertheless, Jeffries in a

letter to Democratic colleagues noted that the GOP package met the

Democratic demands to keep funding at current levels without steep reductions or divisive Republican policy priorities.

"Extreme MAGA Republicans have repeatedly demonstrated that they cannot govern without House Democrats," Jeffries said on NPR. "That will be the case this week in the context of avoiding a government shutdown."

With the House narrowly divided, Johnson could not afford many defections from his Republicans, which is forcing him into the arms of Democrats.

Winning bipartisan approval of a continuing resolution is the same move that led McCarthy's hard-right flank

to oust him in October, days after the Sept. 30 vote to avert a federal shutdown. For now, Johnson appears to be benefiting from a political honeymoon in one of his first big tests on the job. "Look, we're going to trust the speaker's move here," said Rep. Drew Ferguson, R-Ga.

But Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., a McCarthy ally who opposed his ouster, said Johnson should be held to the same standard.

"What's the point in throwing out one speaker if nothing changes? The only way to make sure that real changes happen is make the red line stay the same for every speaker." □



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3 dead, 15 hospitalized when bus carrying students and truck crash on Ohio highway, officials say

By **PATRICK ORSAGOS and JOHN SEEWER**

Associated Press

ETNA, Ohio (AP) — A charter bus carrying students from a high school was rear-ended by a semi-truck on an Ohio highway Tuesday morning, leaving three people dead and 15 others injured, according to an emergency official.

Five vehicles were involved in the crash, including a Pioneer Trails charter bus that was transporting students from the Tuscarawas Valley Local School District in eastern Ohio, Licking County Emergency Management Agency Director Sean Grady said. There were a total of 57 people onboard, he said.

Lt. Nathan Dennis of the Ohio State Highway Patrol confirmed that people were killed in the crash and said "18 people were taken from the bus (overall)," including 15 children, but he declined to specify how many deaths had occurred and declined further comment since authorities were still notifying the victims' families.

The bus was carrying Tuscarawas Valley students and chaperones to an



Emergency responders are on the scene of a fatal accident on Interstate 70 West in Licking County, Ohio, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

Associated Press

Ohio School Boards Association conference in Columbus, Superintendent Derek Varansky said.

"Right now, our focus is on getting in touch with our Tusky Valley families who had loved ones on the bus and providing support to our entire school community," Varansky said in a Facebook post.

The conference was canceled after organizers learned of the crash.

"Given this devastating news, we have canceled our conference. Right now,

our focus is on providing support to Tuscarawas Valley. That includes making grief counselors from our trade show available," said Jeff Chambers, the association's director of communication services.

The accident occurred shortly before 9 a.m. on Interstate 70 West in Licking County, near the Smoke Road underpass and about 26 miles (42 kilometers) east of Columbus. The cause was not immediately known.

The injured were being

treated at seven hospitals. In a statement, Pioneer Trails, the charter bus company, confirmed there was an incident involving one of its buses Tuesday morning.

"Pioneer is fully cooperating with the authorities as we work to find the cause of the accident," the company's statement said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those impacted by this accident. As this is an ongoing investigation, there will be no further comments."

The American Red Cross of Central and Southern Ohio said it fulfilled a request for more blood from one hospital in the area, sending 30 units to a hospital in the Mount Carmel Health System, said Marita Salkowski, regional communications director. A center was set up at a United Methodist Church in Etna for bus passengers not in need of medical attention to go to and contact loved ones, she said.

Numerous emergency responders were at the scene, and Ohio Department of Transportation cameras from the area showed smoke coming from the crash site. Police officers were blocking the entrance ramps to I-70 East and West near the scene of the accident, increasing traffic along the road leading to the interstate. Dozens of emergency response vehicles were still at the scene of the accident several hours after it occurred.

Mickey Lymon, an investigator with the Licking County Coroner's Office, said they had been called to the scene, but deferred other questions to the state police. □



Cars wait at a red light during rush hour, April 22, 2021, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Motor vehicles with higher, more vertical front ends raise risks for pedestrians, according to a highway safety organization.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said that whatever the nose shape, pickups, SUVs and vans with a hood height greater

than 40 inches are about 45% more likely to cause fatalities in pedestrian crashes than cars and other vehicles with a hood height of 30 inches or less and a sloping profile.

But among vehicles with hood heights between 30 and 40 inches, a blunt, or

Vehicles with higher, vertical front ends raise risks for pedestrians

more vertical, front end increases the risk to pedestrians. The study released Tuesday arrives with roadway deaths in the U.S. mounting despite government test data showing vehicles have been getting safer. While the number of all car-related fatalities has trended upward over the last decade, pedestrians and cyclists have seen the sharpest rise: over 60% between 2011 and 2022.

IHS researchers looked at 17,897 crashes involving a single passenger vehicle and a single pedestrian. Using Vehicle Identification Numbers to identify the crash-involved vehicles,

they calculated front-end measurements corresponding to 2,958 unique car, minivan, large van, SUV and pickup models from photographs. They excluded vehicles with pedestrian automatic emergency braking systems and controlled for other factors that could affect the likelihood of a fatality, such as the speed limit and age and sex of the struck pedestrian.

Vehicles with hoods more than 40 inches off the ground at the leading edge and a grille sloped at an angle of 65 degrees or less were 45% more likely to cause pedestrian fatalities

than those with a similar slope and hood heights of 30 inches or less. Vehicles with hood heights of more than 40 inches and blunt front ends angled at greater than 65 degrees were 44% more likely to cause fatalities.

"Manufacturers can make vehicles less dangerous to pedestrians by lowering the front end of the hood and angling the grille and hood to create a sloped profile," IIHS Senior Research Transportation Engineer Wen Hu, the lead author of the study, said in a statement on Tuesday. "There's no functional benefit to these massive, blocky fronts." □

EU lawmakers try to balance protection and privacy over online child pornography

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union lawmakers on Tuesday adopted a series of amendments to a draft law to fight online child pornography as they tried to find the right balance between protecting children and protecting privacy.

Under the the draft position adopted overwhelmingly by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the Parliament, internet providers will have to assess the risk of their services being used for online child sexual abuse, and to take measures to mitigate these threats.

But to "avoid generalized monitoring of the internet," lawmakers proposed excluding end-to-end encrypted material from detection, while making sure time-limited detection orders approved by courts can be used to hunt down illegal material when mitigation actions are not sufficient.

They said they "want mitigation measures to be targeted, proportionate and effective, and providers should be able to decide which ones to use."

Their position now needs to be endorsed by the whole Parliament before further negotiations involving EU member countries can take place.



FBI Supervisory Special Agent Stacey Bradley and Special Agent "Jackie" of the Innocent Images Unit monitors possible child pornography offenders on May 4, 2006 in Calverton, Md. in an online chat room.

Reports of online child sexual abuse in the 27-nation bloc have increased from 23,000 in 2010 to more than 1 million in 2020. A similar increase has been noticed globally, with reports of child abuse on the internet rising from 1 million to almost 22 million during 2014-2020 and over 65 million images and videos of children being sexually abused identified.

The European Commission proposed last year to force online platforms operating in the EU to detect, report and remove the material.

Voluntary detection is currently the norm and the Commission believes that the system does not adequately protect children since many companies don't do the identification work.

Digital rights groups had immediately warned that the Commission's proposal appeared to call for widespread scanning of private communications and would discourage companies from providing end-to-end encryption services, which scramble messages so they're unreadable by

anyone else and are used by chat apps Signal and WhatsApp.

The Computer and Communications Industry Association, a big tech lobbying group, praised the committee's proposed measures that "narrow scanning obligations, safeguard end-to-end encryption of communications and strengthen more targeted mitigation measures."

"Indeed, the 'cascade approach' adopted by Parliament would first have online service providers assess risks and then take

action to mitigate those," the group said. "The tech industry commends this approach, just like the important clarification that detection orders will only be issued as a last-resort measure by a competent judicial authority, and have to be targeted and limited." Lawmakers from across the political spectrum also welcomed the changes to the initial proposal.

"There will be no such thing as general scanning of communications, and nothing will undermine end-to-end encryption," said Hilde Vautmans, the Renew Europe group's negotiator on the regulation. "This agreement is a major step forward in making the internet a safer place for children whilst upholding fundamental rights."

The Parliament committee also wants pornography sites to implement appropriate age verification systems, mechanisms for flagging child sexual abuse material and human content moderation to process these reports.

"To stop minors being solicited online, MEPs propose that services targeting children should require by default user consent for unsolicited messages, have blocking and muting options, and boost parental controls," the Parliament said in a statement. □

Guyana tells U.N. court that Venezuelan referendum on territorial dispute is an 'existential threat'

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Guyana on Tuesday urged judges at the United Nations' highest court to call for a halt to parts of a Venezuelan referendum about a territorial dispute that Guyana representatives called an "existential threat" designed to pave the way for the annexation of a large part of the country.

Two days of hearings that opened at the International Court of Justice are the latest legal tussle between the South American neighbors in a dispute that dates back to an arbitration award by an international tribunal in 1899 that drew the border between them. The Tunisia-sized swath of jungle west of the Essequibo River in the dispute is rich in gold, diamonds, timber and other natural re-

sources. Guyana launched a case at the world court in 2018 seeking to have U.N. judges uphold the 1899 ruling. It returned to the court last month after Venezuelan authorities published five questions the country plans to ask in a consultative referendum scheduled for Dec. 3 about the future of the Essequibo.

"The collective decision called for here involves nothing less than the an-



View of the Peace Palace which houses World Court in The Hague, Netherlands, on Sept. 19, 2023.

Associated Press

nexation of the territory in dispute in this case. This is a textbook example of annexation," said Paul Reichler, an American lawyer representing Guyana. The application asks the

court's judges to make a series of urgent orders including calling for a halt to Venezuela's planned referendum in its current form and to scrap three of the five planned questions. □

Mexican government sends conflicting messages over death of LGBTQ+ magistrate

By MEGAN JANETSKY

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican authorities on Tuesday sent conflicting messages about the violent death of a leading LGBTQ+ figure after thousands marched Monday night demanding justice.

Jesús Ociel Baena was found dead with around 20 wounds next to their partner in their home in the central Mexican city of Aguascalientes on Monday, according to state prosecutors. Baena, the first openly non-binary person to assume a judicial post in Mexico, was one of the most visible LGBTQ+ figures in a country where sexual minorities are often violently targeted.

Baena and their partner had already received death threats and hateful messages and had protection from state security, prompting many across the country Monday to call their death a hate crime. Authorities have provided minimal details about the slaying and local prosecutors hinted it may have been a murder-suicide.

The Aguascalientes prosecutor's office on Tuesday offered new details, saying it appeared that Baena was murdered with razor blades by their partner, Dorian Herrera, who then



A demonstrator holds a picture of Aguascalientes state electoral court magistrate Jesus Ociel Baena in Mexico City, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023.

committed suicide.

"It may seem like a not very credible hypothesis to many, but we're being very careful to leave a record and preserve all evidence," said state prosecutor Jesús Figueroa Ortega. He added that one of the wounds was on Baena's jugular, and that they found blood on the bed and bloody footprints leading through the home.

Federal authorities, however, urged caution in the investigation Tuesday. Félix Arturo Medina, an official

with Mexico's Interior Ministry, said "it's important to not throw out any line of investigation", adding that they hoped to coordinate with state authorities to investigate the deaths.

"It's a relevant case for us, not just because of the activism the magistrate was carrying out," but also because the government wants all crimes to be investigated, Medina said. Impunity runs rampant in Mexico. Only 1% of all crimes committed were reported, investigated and

resolved in 2022, according to a survey by National Institute of Statistics and Geography.

The state authorities' hypothesis was quickly rejected by many in Mexico's LGBTQ+ community.

Alejandro Brito, director of the LGBTQ+ rights group Letra S urged authorities to continue to investigate the incident and to take into consideration the context of the case, and threats of violence against Baena. Brito called state prosecutor's version of events

"loaded with prejudices" and said quick conclusions made by local authorities have only deepened distrust of authorities among historically victimized communities.

"In these types of homicides they always try to disqualify or belittle," Brito said. "These statements that the prosecutor is giving, what they're doing isn't clarifying the acts, they're adding fuel to the fire of these prejudices." People who knew Baena said the magistrate and Herrera in recent weeks were chipper and talked passionately about future activism.

Brito was echoed by thousands who gathered in the heart of Mexico City lighting candles over photos of Baena and other victims of anti-LGBTQ+ violence Monday night. They shouted "Justice" and "We won't stay silent" and demanded a thorough investigation into the deaths.

"Ociel is, and was, the most relevant figure in today's fight for human rights for the LGBTQ+ community," said Humberto Dena, a 24-year-old carrying a candle alongside thousands of others in the march. "We want (the authorities) to continue to investigate this case, and not just say it was a 'crime of passion.'"

Associated Press



A view of Russian border crossing point Svetogorsk from the Pelkola border crossing point in Imatra, south-eastern Finland, on April 14, 2023.

Associated Press

By JARI TANNER

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — The government in Finland is considering whether to close some crossing points on the country's long border with Russia

to prevent people from trying to enter without proper documentation, the Nordic nation's interior minister and prime minister said Tuesday. Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said the number of

Finland considers closing border crossings with Russia to stem an increase in asylum-seekers

migrants at Finland's south-eastern border crossings has risen substantially since August due to what the government suspects is a change in Russia's border policy and enforcement.

Finnish and Russian border authorities have for years cooperated in stopping people without the necessary visas or passports before they can attempt to enter either of the two countries. But Russia has started allowing undocumented travelers to access

the border zone and enter crossing stations where they can request asylum in Finland, Rantanen said.

"It is clear that these people get help to get to the border. This seems like a very conscious decision," Prime Minister Petteri Orpo told reporters. "The government's message is clear: We must take this seriously and safeguard the security of our border." The number of migrants showing up at the Finland-Russia border so far has remained small, with

71 arriving last week, Finnish border authorities said. About half were from Iraq and the rest from countries that included Syria, Yemen, Turkey and Somalia, they said. Rantanen was unable to explain why Moscow's border policy suddenly changed. "Maybe (Russian officials) are annoyed by something in Finland's activities. You have to ask the Russian authorities about that," she said. "We do hope that Russia changes its policy back as it was before."

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Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating underwater spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea

stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many under-



water wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through

the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



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Once you're done having a hearty meal, let the kids enjoy themselves to their heart's content, you can continue exploring Aruba right in front of the resort by visiting the famous Bird Sanctuary, as well as a special beach shuttle that transports the guests to the beach during the day, which is a walking distance from where you can enjoy the heat of Palm Beach's nightlife at night. □

Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites.

These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of day-

time nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or

'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to

go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!

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Visit the island's hidden natural pools



(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura

di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty

of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there.



Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped

lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many

tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling

these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores

and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy

the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Cododo * *Cnemidophorus arubensis*

Episode CCXXXII- 232

Every week, Etnia Nativa unveils a new episode regarding culture and heritage, focusing on native knowledge, transcendental wisdom, and the importance of defending Aruba's true identity. Articles that connect the reader with a mystical aspect of the island, its culture, and its traditional heritage encourage all to interact with the native environment by adopting an authentic island state of consciousness.

Today we share some details of the famous and only blue lizard on our island, known locally as cododo, and without a doubt, if you find it hanging around there, it will catch your attention. This lizard is known in English as Aruba's Whiptail, is classified as *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, and is one of the different species that you can find on our island.

Female whiptail lizards and young lizards are known as "lagadishi," or lizards in English. This endemic species is recognized as the most common and abundant species of lizard in Aruba. So, if you look carefully, as you walk through a garden, you will see some hanging around the flowers.

Cododo is considered beautiful for its light blue-spotted body and its turquoise tail, which cause great luminosity when it is in the sun. Females and young males are more discreet in terms of coloring. We can differentiate them because their bodies are light brown and have little blue spots. Notice that not only does the exposure to the sun make the cododo's color shine, but the mating season also turns its coloration more vibrant. During the mating season, which occurs from September to October, the cododo's blue color intensifies, covering a significant part of the



Female cododo

body. They typically grow to about 6 inches (approx. 15 cm).

Aruba's Whiptail (cododo) is highly adapted to an herbivorous diet. They like to consume flowers, nectar, leaves, and fruits, but occasionally they will catch a fly. However, they exhibit selectivity in plant consumption due to the presence of toxins in many available plant species. They often prefer fruit remains, which is usually followed by the excretion of the seeds in various

places, helping the dispersion of the edible varieties for this species. Different studies in their natural surroundings have found that approximately 80% of the contents of the cododos stomach are made up of vegetable materials, 15% are made up of insects, and the remaining 5% are made up of feces, small pebbles, and twigs.

Cnemidophorus arubensis (cododo) reproduces through sexual reproduction. They have femoral pores, which are larger in males than in females, and produce a single large egg.

Something you should also know is that they are territorial animals, "and it is very common to see a cododo making signs with its front paw and curving its back, alerting intruders or the opponent that: "I am in charge of here."

Now, if you want to learn everything about Aruba, book a visit to Etnia Nativa, a unique native gem where you will love Aruba beyond its beaches. In situ, you'll be guided by our Island Insight acclaimed columnist, who will give you a lecture on the most interesting and revealing stories of the island. Undiscovered Etnia Nativa is an adventure beyond tourist traps. Experience a magnificent dwelling that integrates natural and reused materials, is bursting with culture and island heritage, and is overflowing with knowledge.

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Mature male Cododo



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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass



are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and

weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted



beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take

local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐




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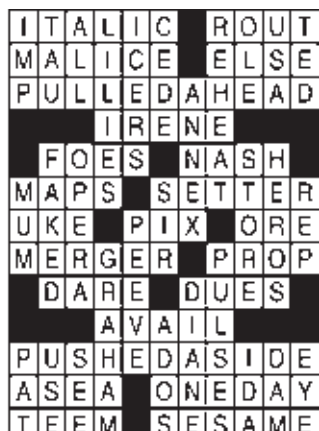
View menu

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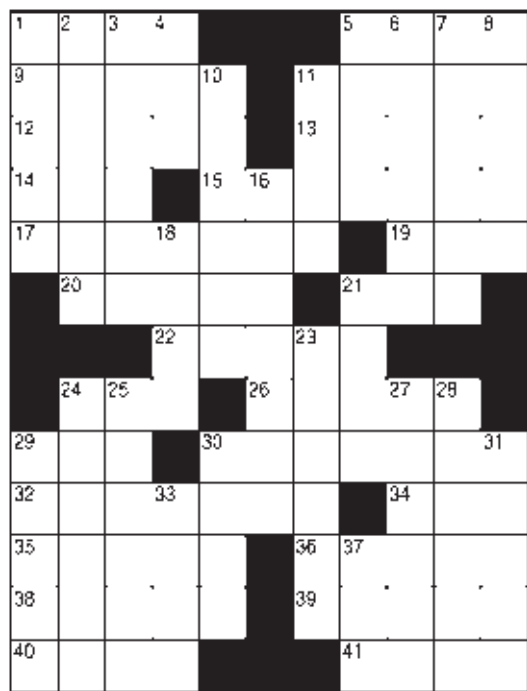
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 - court
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 - Spielberg
 - 29 Fixed look
 - 30 Earth
 - tones
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 - 33 Spigots
 - 37 Pert talk



Yesterday's answer



11-15

AXYDIBAA XR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

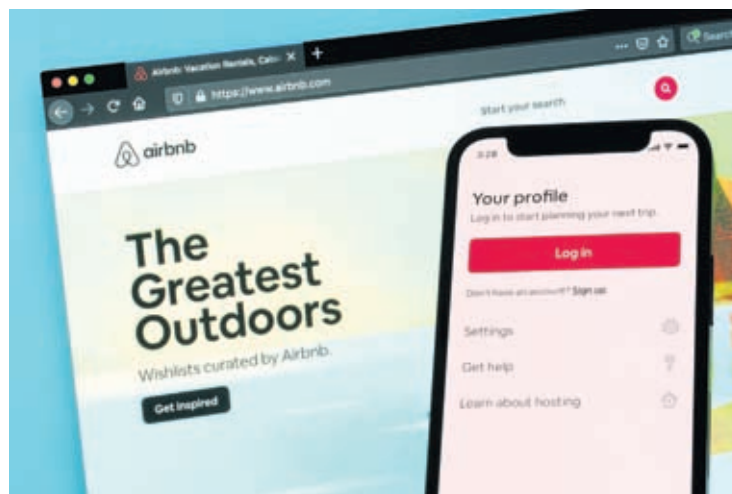
M V X C U Y B B L V B L C Y S J S V

Q Y H H S M C O B H Y U I S J Y I S M

X M J U C S C O Z A C S J Q H J Y L H E

V Q J Y U Y L S M A L Q Q H Y L W J
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU HAVE A GARDEN IN YOUR LIBRARY, EVERYTHING WILL BE COMPLETE. — CICERO

Millennial Money: These Airbnb horror stories can teach you what to watch for



The login page for Airbnb's iPhone app is displayed on a computer displaying Airbnb's website, May 8, 2021, in Washington. Airbnb "horror stories" are a genre unto themselves.

Associated Press

By SAM KEMMIS
of NerdWallet

Many frequent travelers carry tales of delayed flights and disappointing hotel rooms. Yet Airbnb "horror stories" are a genre all their own.

Videos with the tag #AirbnbHorrorStory have more than 63 million views on TikTok, featuring guests venting about unclean properties and last-minute cancellations leaving them stranded. The website Airbnbhell features hundreds of similar accounts, where things do not go as expected for short-term renters.

While many of these stories offer little more than schadenfreude, others can act as instructive lessons for travelers looking to avoid similar pitfalls. While there's no way to avoid short-term rental surprises outright, many guests who have experienced them say there were warning signs they wished they had watched out for.

LOOK FOR REVIEWS

Jack Epner, a marketing consultant and digital nomad, has lived out of Airbnbs for more than four years. Of the many difficult

stays in that time, one rental — a house in Ecuador — stands out. "It wasn't clean, distinctly not clean," Epner says. "We're talking black mold all over the kitchen, hair all over the bedding. I ended up with bed bugs."

Beyond that, Epner says the host's friends would use the front lawn as a parking lot, and the host entered the (private) property unannounced several times. After messaging several Airbnb customer service teams, Epner was eventually able to receive a refund. Yet the stay was so difficult, that it forced a recalibration of how much emphasis he now places on guest reviews.

The home had only one review, from a local, Epner says. And while he would usually look for more reviews before booking, the lack of availability at the time made him willing to take the risk. He says that's a risk he won't repeat.

"I do avoid places without reviews now," Epner says. "If there's really only one review, I'll be wary; I would like to see two to three minimum. The more reviews the better."

HAVE A BACKUP PLAN

When Agnes Groomwald saw an Airbnb listing in Crestone, Colorado, it looked too interesting to pass up. "The place was intriguing. It looked like a spaceship buried in the ground," Groomwald says.

Groomwald, a nomad and creator of the blog Travel on the Reg, says the listing's uniqueness wasn't totally convincing. Yet, with no other listings available nearby, it seemed like the best choice.

Upon check-in, she noticed another group was already there: a family of mice. "As soon as we arrived, we saw a little critter in the kitchen sink," Groomwald says. "This was an infestation; this was the real deal." Groomwald, too, was able to receive a refund for the booking but couldn't find alternative lodging nearby at such short notice. That meant cohabitating with mice for several days. "Sometimes boring is better," Groomwald suggests.

Second, make sure there's a backup plan in place in case of deal-breaking problems. That doesn't mean you have to book another rental, but just make sure there's another lodging option available on the same dates in case something goes wrong with your Airbnb.

COMMUNICATE BEFORE-HAND

Gabrielle Dahms, a realtor based in California, says she has always had good Airbnb experiences. Then, she checked into a five-day Airbnb rental in San Rafael, California, and discovered an unexpected hazard: synthetic fragrance dispensers.

"Anytime anyone made a movement, these things dispensed fragrance," Dahms laments. "Within two hours, my sinuses were completely swelled up." Dahms complained to the host and Airbnb customer service, after which the host gave Dahms a one-star guest review. It has since soured her on the entire platform. □

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Cheetahs become more nocturnal on hot days



In this photo provided by Briana Abrahms, a male cheetah, named Qamar, has a fully belly after making a kill in northern Botswana on July 17, 2015.

Associated Press

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**
AP Science Writer

Cheetahs are usually daytime hunters, but the speedy big cats will shift their activity toward dawn and dusk hours during warmer weather, a new study finds.

Unfortunately for endangered cheetahs, that sets them up for more potential conflicts with mostly nocturnal competing predators such as lions and leopards, say the authors of research published Wednesday in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

"Changing temperatures can impact the behavior patterns of large carnivore species and also the dynamics among species," said University of Washington biologist Briana Abrahms, a study co-author.

While cheetahs only eat fresh meat, lions and leop-

ards will sometimes opportunistically scavenge from smaller predators.

"Lions and leopards normally kill prey themselves, but if they come across a cheetah's kill, they will try to take it," said Bettina Wachter, a behavioral biologist who leads the Cheetah Research Project at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research.

"The cheetahs will not fight the larger cats, they will just leave," said Wachter, who is based in Namibia and was not involved in the study.

Hunting at different times of the day is one long-evolved strategy to reduce encounters between the multiple predator species that share northern Botswana's mixed savannah and forest landscape.

But the new study found that on the hottest days, when maximum daily tem-

peratures soared to nearly 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit), cheetahs became more nocturnal — increasing their overlapping hunting hours with rival big cats by 16%.

"There's a greater chance for more unfriendly encounters and less food for the cheetahs," said co-author Kasim Rafiq, a biologist at the University of Washington and the non-profit Botswana Predator Conservation Trust.

For the current study, researchers placed GPS tracking collars on 53 large carnivores — including cheetahs, lions, leopards and African wild dogs — and recorded their locations and hours of activity over eight years. They compared this data with maximum daily temperature records.

While seasonal cycles explain most temperature fluctuations in the study window of 2011 to 2018, the scientists say the ob-

served behavior changes offer a peek into the future of a warming world.

In addition to competition with lions and leopards, cheetahs already face severe pressure from habitat fragmentation and conflict with humans.

The fastest land animal, cheetahs are the rarest big cat in Africa, with fewer than 7,000 left in the wild.

"These climate changes could become really critical if we look into the future — it's predicted to become much warmer in this part of Africa where cheetahs live, in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia," said Wachter of the Cheetah Research Project. □

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'The Hunger Games' starts fresh, without Katniss, in 'The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Everyone had resigned themselves to the fact that "The Hunger Games" ended in 2015. The four-film blockbuster franchise had made nearly \$3 billion at the global box office and helped Jennifer Lawrence skyrocket to superstardom. But Suzanne Collins' Katniss Everdeen saga was over. And, frankly, everyone, including Collins, director Francis Lawrence and producer Nina Jacobson, was eager to take a break and do something else.

For several years after "Mockingjay — Part 2," "Hunger Games"-related text conversations between Lawrence and Collins rarely went past sending one another screenshots of their films on Jeopardy categories. Then, in 2019, Jacobson and Lawrence got a call: Collins was putting the finishing touches on something new, a prequel set 64-years before Katniss volunteered as tribute. It would be focused on a young Coriolanus Snow, and there would be a big musical element.

"The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" arrives in theaters nationwide Friday at another transitional moment in Hollywood, where Marvel movies are no longer sure things and, for the first time in a long time, the biggest movies of the year aren't already franchises.

And while the team was excited about the possibility of working together again, there were some nerves about whether or not there was an appetite for Hunger Games movies "without Katniss," Lawrence told The Associated Press in a recent interview. But this was all before they'd laid eyes on the book.

Both Lawrence and Jacobson were soon brought into Collins' agent's office, seated in a locked room and given the book to read. To their relief, suddenly the Katniss problem didn't seem so important anymore, and soon they were off to Li-



This image released by Lionsgate shows Tom Blyth, left, and Rachel Zegler in a scene from "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes."

onsgate to get it off the ground.

"We were excited to be able to dive into something that didn't feel like a rehash," Jacobson said. "It didn't feel like we were trying to imitate the previous movies."

For Lawrence, it "felt like a 'Hunger Games' story" but also something unique, "with new thematic foundations."

"Instead of a girls' survival story, it was a young man's descent into darkness," Lawrence said. "It's an origin story about a major character and also the series itself."

As with the first film, Lawrence and Jacobson wanted to find fresh young talents to lead the franchise — not a TikTok star or someone already famous in another part of the world — and surround them with veteran actors. In this case, those established names would include Viola Davis, Peter Dinklage and Jason Schwartzman.

They found their young Snow, played in the original films by Donald Sutherland, via taped submission. The English actor Tom Blyth entered the running rather late and quickly became the frontrunner, beating out

hundreds for the role.

"He just blew everybody out of the water," Lawrence said. "He has a charisma, he has the right physical attributes. He's Juilliard trained. He really knows his craft. He was going to be able to give us all the emotional values we need for the character's journey. And he felt like a star."

For Lucy Gray Baird, the District 12 tribute Snow is assigned to mentor for the 10th Hunger Games, Lawrence already had someone in mind. Like many film fans, he was transfixed by Rachel Zegler's film debut as Maria in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" and persuaded her to co-star. It wasn't a hard sell: "The Hunger Games" were already a big part of Zegler's life having grown up with the books and the movies, which she and her mom and sister made events out of.

"As somebody who loves to call herself a fan first before anything else, the greatest gift you can get is more to the story," Zegler said. "Rather than seeing it as a pressure cooker just waiting to explode, I see it as a really big blessing."

Blyth, in his first starring role in Hollywood, felt some pressure. But he found comfort

in the material they were working with.

"We're lucky to be adapting a book that's really good," Blyth said. "Suzanne writes these big thinking pieces that are approachable for teenagers and younger people, which I think is a genuinely honorable feat — someone who wants to try and bring bigger ideas to young people while also entertaining them."

Filming took place largely in Germany. The production looked to reconstruction-era Berlin for aesthetic and thematic inspiration for this post-war capitol that's rebuilding and on tenuous political ground. And Trish Summerville was also brought back to design the ornate costumes, which include some Easter eggs for fans hidden in Lucy's hand-painted corset.

"There's this spectacle to the whole world," Blyth said. "The whole thing is about spectacle. It's about being distracted by beautiful things while everything else is going on."

But even while creating a new world, the filmmakers were disciplined about the budget. Instead of resting on laurels and precedent — "Mockingjay Part 2" had a \$160 million price tag — they

kept theirs to a reported \$100 million.

"We were very mindful that this was not a sequel but a prequel with a new cast," Jacobson said. "We wanted to make sure that we were making this movie at a price that that made sense."

It's easy to forget that not everyone in Hollywood thought that they had a blockbuster in their hands at the beginning. Back in 2009, when Jacobson and her production company ColorForce acquired the rights to adapt Collins' YA series, there was widespread skepticism about young adult material and about the appeal of female-fronted action movies that weren't primarily romances.

"In the original series, we were able to take a lot of risks and really challenge a lot of industry assumptions," Jacobson said. "The most important thing in this go-around was to still take those risks and not be playing it safe — to still feel like we're making something that's a bit on the subversive side."

With its moral ambiguity and complicated characters, Jacobson thinks it might even be the kind of movie that audiences want to discuss and debate afterward. In the past year, she added, a lot of young people have discovered the franchise on streaming who will hopefully join established fans at the theater for "The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes."

"I'm hopeful that it will be a shared cultural experience and a communal experience at a time when we don't have too many of those," Jacobson said. "When they do happen, as they have this year with movies as different as 'Barbie' and 'Oppenheimer,' it certainly shows that if you give people a worthwhile and original story with some bold storytelling and a filmmaker with a voice, that they will show up. And we hope to be part of that showing up." □

Goalies Lundqvist, Vernon and Barrasso headline latest class inducted into Hall of Fame

TORONTO (AP) — Henrik Lundqvist played a starring role at Madison Square Garden for 15 seasons.

The New York Rangers legend fed off the energy inside the world's most famous arena — and a city where many athletes have wilted under the same spotlight's intense glow.

It also led the Swede into the Hockey Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

Lundqvist headlined a goaltender-heavy 2023 class inducted Monday that also featured Mike Vernon and Tom Barrasso — the first time three netminders have entered together in more than 60 years.

"Seven-by-three meter sandpit at a kindergarten up in Are, Sweden, to Madison Square Garden and now Hockey Hall of Fame — it's just an incredible feeling," Lundqvist said in his speech Monday. "And I try to remember what I was thinking back then as an eight-year-old skating around."

"So much love for the game of hockey."

Also enshrined in the player category were Pierre Turgeon and Caroline Ouellette, while former NHL head coach Ken Hitchcock and the late Pierre Lacroix, who was both an agent and ex-



Hockey Hall of Fame 2023 inductees pose during ceremonies Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, in Toronto. From left are Mike Vernon, Pierre Turgeon, Caroline Ouellette, Henrik Lundqvist, Eric Lacroix (son of inductee Pierre Lacroix), Ken Hitchcock, and Tom Barrasso.

Associated Press

ecutive, went in as builders. The 2012 Vezina Trophy winner as the NHL's top puck-stopper, Lundqvist ranks sixth all-time in wins (459), ninth in games played (887) and 17th in shutouts (64). The first Swedish goaltender to be inducted into the hall added 61 more victories in the playoffs before his career ended three years ago because of a heart condition.

A seventh-round pick in the 2000 draft, Lundqvist back-

stopped the Rangers to the 2014 Stanley Cup final. New York also made two Eastern Conference final appearances (2012, 2015) with Lundqvist, who won Olympic gold with Sweden in 2006.

"Growing up I always had big dreams," he said. "My dad told me, my brother, my sister at an early age, 'Dream big, it will inspire you to work hard.' And I'll never forget that."

"Let's be honest, I never saw

this."

Eligible since 2005, Vernon won the Cup with his hometown Calgary Flames in 1989 before hoisting it again in 1997 with the Detroit Red Wings — adding the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP with that second title.

He sat seventh in regular-season wins (385), fourth among goalies in playoff appearances (138) and fifth in playoff victories (77) when he retired.

"I strapped my pads on at the age of five," Vernon said during his speech. "I never took them off."

Barrasso, who's been eligible since 2006, secured both the Calder Trophy as NHL rookie of the year and the Vezina during a magical 1983-84 season with the Buffalo Sabres. A Cup winner with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991 and 1992, his 369 career victories ranks fourth all-time among American-born goaltenders.

"No one gets here alone," Barrasso said. "You need love, you need support. And most importantly, you need opportunity from people along the way."

Ouellette is one of just three women's hockey players to top the Olympic podium four or more times, winning gold in 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2014 with Canada. The Montreal native also captured six world championships and had a long professional career.

Turgeon, who retired in 2007, had 515 goals and 1,327 points over his 19 NHL seasons. The Quebec product won the Lady Byng Trophy in 1993 with the New York Islanders and captained the Canadiens during the team's final season at the Montreal Forum. □

Stefanos Tsitsipas withdraws from the ATP Finals after a back injury

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Stefanos Tsitsipas withdrew from the ATP Finals with a back injury on Tuesday after playing only three games of his second match in Turin, handing Holger Rune the victory. Tsitsipas, the 2019 champion, was trailing 2-1 in the opening set when he had a lengthy conversation with his trainer before slowly getting to his feet, shaking his head and walking over to shake Rune's hand.

That was after only 17 minutes of play and led to boos from the crowd in Turin, which instead had to settle for an exhibition match be-

tween alternates Taylor Fritz and Hubert Hurkacz.

"My apologies to all the fans and the crowd that came to support me today and watch the match. I'm really gutted that I wasn't able to finish the match," Tsitsipas said. "My doctors and the countless visits that I had in the last few days suggested that I play, they gave me the green light to go and try."

"Unfortunately I felt terrible on the court ... I hate retiring from matches, I'm not that kind of person that likes leaving mid-match and it kills me not to be able to fin-

ish this tournament, the one that I've prepped for for so long, made sure that I'm completely fit to perform at my best and show my capacities as a player."

Tsitsipas, who lost to Jannik Sinner 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday, had cut short a practice session on Friday because of an apparent physical issue but the Greek player said he was "absolutely fine."

Hurkacz will replace Tsitsipas and play top-ranked Novak Djokovic on Thursday.

Rune lost his opener to Djokovic 7-6 (4), 6-7 (1), 6-3



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, right, embraces Denmark's Holger Rune after injuring during the singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023.

Associated Press

but the Dane now leads the green group ahead of Djokovic's match against Sinner.

"For sure (not the way I

wanted to win). It is very unfortunate," Rune said. "You could see in the first service game, he was not serving as full as he can." □

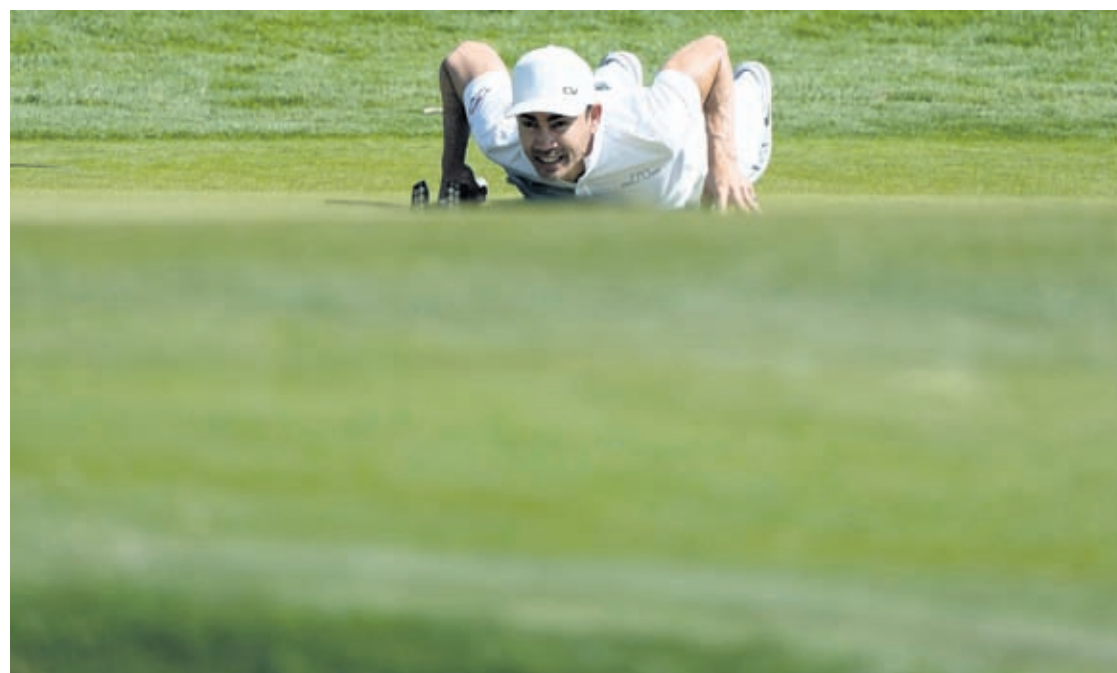
Camilo Villegas's comeback was sparked by a caddie who loves to coach

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

The road back for Camilo Villegas began with a detour to San Diego and a question to a caddie who wasn't even his: "When are you going to help me?" Villegas started what figured to be a challenging year in the Bahamas on the Korn Ferry Tour, and he meant to stay for a second tournament in the islands until he received a last-minute sponsor exemption to the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines. That's where he had a chance meeting with an Argentine caddie who is more than what he seems. For Villegas, a 41-year-old Colombian, it changed the course of his year.

Jose Luis Campra — his friends call him "Pepa" — grew up at the same course in Cordoba that produced Angel Cabrera and Eduardo Romero. He had aspirations of playing after getting a finance degree from Jacksonville State in Alabama. But then a few fruitless years on the Challenge Tour and PGA Tour Latinoamerica suggested he take a different path. He always wanted to teach. Caddying helps pay the bills.

Campra runs an academy in Argentina. He has worked for Cabrera, Emiliano Grillo, Scott Piercy and now Sebastian Munoz. He has long been friends — nothing more — with Villegas and his brother, Man-



Camilo Villegas, of Colombia, studies his putt on the 14th green during the Mexico Open golf tournament's first round in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Associated Press

ny. Latin American bonds are tight in golf. He was at Torrey Pines in January with Munoz, and that would have been the last chance to run into Villegas. It was the last PGA Tour event Munoz played before joining LIV Golf.

"I never, ever talk golf with Camilo — never, ever," Campra said Monday from Argentina. "I have always been a friend, but we never talk golf, even in his worst times. He played really poorly for two days. On Friday after missing the cut, he told me, 'When are you going to help me?'" Campra thought he was kidding. Villegas was serious. "He never stopped being a great player, but the

ball striking was not there," Campra said. "I had a plan of what I thought would be good related to the ball flight. We spoke for 20 minutes. I said: 'If you want me to work for you, it's not going to be a tip. It's going to be serious work and maybe playing worse the first month-and-a-half. Are you up for it?' And he said, 'Yes.'" Villegas for more than a decade hit a bullet from right to left with hardly any spin. The change Campra suggested was to a fade with a higher launch angle. It was such a radical adjustment that Campra worried Villegas might want to quit after a few months. He asked that Villegas call him twice a week, so he could at least gauge his confi-

dence level.

That wasn't going to be an issue. Villegas knows tough times more than most.

A shoulder injury caused him to miss all of 2019, and he felt the game was passing him by. Off the course was devastating. The following year, his 22-month-old daughter, Mia, was diagnosed with brain cancer. She died that summer. Villegas also knows the only path is forward. His wife urged him to keep playing after Mia's death as a way to reconnect with a game that has meant so much to him. When he agreed to change his swing, Campra preached patience, that improvement would not happen overnight.

Villegas missed the cut in

nine of the 18 events he played on the Korn Ferry Tour. He missed six cuts in the eight PGA Tour events he played. He was prepared for the second stage of Q-school and not particularly happy about it. But he was willing to go because that was the way back. Turns out there was no need for that.

With time running out on the season, Villegas was runner-up in Mexico two weeks ago, and there was hope. And then he won in Bermuda, and there was deep satisfaction.

Villegas looked so peaceful when he tapped in for par to win at Port Royal, tilting his head to the heavens. "I've got my little one up there watching," he said.

"This game has given me so many great things, but in the process it kicks your butt," he said. "Life has given me so many great things and in the process it kicks my butt, too."

Campra could see this coming. When he went to see Villegas in July, he said he told him, "CV, I think we're going to play in the Masters again."

Campra is no ordinary caddie. Such was his passion for the game that when he traveled to tournaments as a caddie, he would make appointments to spend time with teachers in Singapore and Sweden, in Hawaii and California. He saw 20 of them. Most were not renowned. □



New York Red Bulls coach Troy Lesesne shouts to the team during the first half of an MLS soccer match against Real Salt Lake, Saturday, July 15, 2023, in Sandy, Utah.

Associated Press

Troy Lesesne is fired by the Red Bulls. His replacement will be their 20th coach in 29 seasons

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — Troy Lesesne was fired by the New York Red Bulls on Tuesday, and his replacement will become the team's 20th coach in 29 seasons. New York also said Denis Hamlett had left after seven seasons as sporting director in what the Red Bulls termed a mutual decision. Lesesne replaced Gerhard Struber on May 8 with the team in last place with one win, four losses and six draws for nine points. The

Red Bulls made the playoffs by finishing eighth in the Eastern Conference with 11 wins, 10 draws and 13 losses and beat Charlotte in the first round before losing to Cincinnati.

New York has never won an MLS championship.

The team also fired assistant coach Zach Prince. Lesesne followed Eddie Firmani (1996), Carlos Queiroz (1996), Carlos Alberto Pereira (1997), Alfonso Mondelo (1998), Bora Milutinovic (1998-99), Octavio Zambrano (2000-02), Bob Bradley (2003-05), Mo Johnston (2005-2006), Richie Williams (2006), Bruce Arena (2006-07), Juan Carlos Osorio (2008-09), Williams (2009), Hans Backe (2010-12), Mike Petke (2013-15), Jesse Marsch (2015-18), Chris Armas (2018-20), Bradley Carnell (2020) and Struber (2020-22).

Eleven of the 29 MLS teams have changed coaches this year. □